

## **SCRIPT FOR FOREIGN AREA OFFICER TAPE 6 DECEMBER 1989**

THE UNITED STATES ARMY, AS THE GUARDIAN OF OUR NATIONAL SECURITY, HAS THE STRATEGIC RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT OUR VITAL INTERESTS WORLDWIDE. AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR EFFORT TO MEET OUR GLOBAL OBLIGATIONS IS OUR CORPS OF FOREIGN AREA OFFICERS.

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, FOREIGN AREA OFFICERS PROVIDE A VITAL LINK BETWEEN POLITICAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS AND ARE CRITICAL MEMBERS OF THE AMBASSADOR'S COUNTRY TEAM. THEY ARE KEY TO OUR EFFORTS TO ENHANCE THE CAPABILITIES OF FRIENDLY ARMIES TO DEFEND THEIR NATIONS AND TO SUPPORT OUR COMMON INTERESTS. IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD, OUR FAOs ARE THE ARMY'S SOLE REPRESENTATIVES AND ARE CALLED UPON TO EXERCISE RESPONSIBILITY FAR BEYOND THAT NORMALLY EXPECTED OF THEIR RANK.

THEY ALSO SERVE IN KEY POLICY FORMULATION POSITIONS, SOMETIMES AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

IN THIS CAPACITY AND AS SOLDIERS WHO THOROUGHLY UNDERSTAND ARMY DOCTRINE, THEY COMBINE THEIR OPERATIONAL CREDENTIALS AND EXPERTISE AS AREA SPECIALISTS, TO ENSURE THAT POLICY PROPOSALS CONSIDER REALISTIC MILITARY ALTERNATIVES.

THIS UNIQUE ARMY CAREER OPPORTUNITY DOES NOT COME EASILY. TO BECOME A FOREIGN AREA OFFICER, YOU MUST MEET STRINGENT PROFESSIONAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS. YOU MUST BE PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE TASKS OF GREAT RESPONSIBILITY IN FAR-FLUNG CORNERS OF THE WORLD. AND YOU MUST BE PREPARED TO LIVE UNDER AUSTERE CONDITIONS IN UNFAMILIAR CULTURES.

THE RETURN OF THIS GREAT PERSONAL INVESTMENT IS ENORMOUS PROFESSIONAL SATISFACTION AND THE SURE KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU HAVE MADE A MAJOR AND DIRECT CONTRIBUTION TO THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES. FOR THOSE WITH A COMMITMENT TO POLITICAL-MILITARY AFFAIRS AND THE DEDICATION TO STAY THE COURSE, I ENCOURAGE PURSUIT OF THE ARMY'S FOREIGN AREA OFFICER PROGRAM.